

OPENS ATTACK ON CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION

TO-NIGHT'S WEATHER—Fair; continued cold.



The Evening World.

"Circulation Books Open to All."

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TO-MORROW'S WEATHER—Fair; continued cold.



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PRICE TWO CENTS.

KELLY RUSHED ANOTHER BODY TO SECRET BURIAL BEFORE FAMILY LEARNED OF DEATH

Told Public Administrator Combes Had No Relatives, Yet Sent Bill to Son.

"SEARCHED" ONE DAY.

Easy Methods by Which Bodies Can Be Taken From Morgue Revealed.

Starting new disclosures were made to-day in connection with the securing of bodies by undertakers without the knowledge of relatives. The Evening World's investigations in the Callie case, which have now become a matter of official inquiry, showed that it was possible for an undertaker to secure a body from the City Morgue on fraudulent and forged authorizations and to bury it secretly without the knowledge of the woman's own daughter.

In an investigation begun to-day into the unauthorized burial of Joseph S. Combes, of White Plains, N. Y., by Undertaker George H. Kelly, No. 337 Columbus Avenue, the same undertaker who hurried the body of Mrs. Callie to the grave, The Evening World has learned that the Public Administrator's office obligingly issues "authorizations" to undertakers who say that they have not found any relatives.

In the Combes case it is shown that while Undertaker Kelly told the Public Administrator's office he was unable to find any relatives of the deceased before burial, he was able to find relatives—a son—to send a bill to for his services. The name and address of this son were shown on papers which were in the Public Administrator's office when the Public Administrator accepted Kelly's word that no relatives could be found.

FAMILY LEARNED OF DEATH FIVE DAYS AFTER BURIAL.

John J. Connell, Chief Clerk in the office of Public Administrator William H. Hoes, in the Hall of Records, said to-day that the first that Kelly knew of the Combes case was when Kelly wrote, on the same day Combes died, stating that Combes had died in the Mills Hotel, No. 133 West 34th Street, and that he had a bankbook and cash in the possession of the police.

Kelly asked that he be permitted to call for the body. The Public Administrator requested Kelly to make a "diligent search" for relatives of the deceased. The next day Kelly telephoned that he had made "diligent search" but was unable to find any relatives. The Public Administrator then authorized the City Morgue to turn the body over to Kelly for burial.

Five days later on April 23, Paul Monk, a clerk in the office of the Public Administrator, filing the papers which the police had taken from the body when it was removed from the Mills Hotel, came across the name and address of the dead man's son, Alcott L. Combes, No. 22 Roberts Avenue, Haddonfield, N. J. A postal card was then sent to Mr. Combes, asking him to come and claim his father's effects.

The Combes family, for the first time apprised of the death of the father, then had the Mount Kenilworth grave, in which Kelly had placed the body, opened, and gave their father a decent burial.

NO INVESTIGATION MADE OF UNDERTAKERS' CLAIMS.

Clerks in the office of the Public Administrator reported to-day that they have an average of from three to five cases a week, which it is the practice of the office to turn over to the first undertaker who requests permission to take charge of the body. No investigation of any kind, it was said, was made by the office as to the truth of the claims of the undertaker as to the "diligent search" made for relatives of the deceased.

"We make the undertakers come to us," said Mr. Connell, "because in this

THREE GIRLS SAVED IN WALL ST. FIRE; 300 FLEE BUILDING

Wall of Building Torn Out in Fighting Blaze That Filled Elevator Shaft.

Fire in the cellar of the eight-story building at No. 69 Wall Street shortly after 11 o'clock this morning sent clouds of smoke through the upper stories and the 300 occupants hurrying down the stairs to the street.

The alarm brought the engine companies from John, Stone and Liberty Streets under Deputy Chief John Binns and work was started from both the Wall and Beaver Street entrances. A wall had to be torn down on the Beaver Street side and the telephone switchboard and wires pulled out to enable the firemen to reach the seat of the fire in the store-room.

The smoke in the elevator shaft made the elevators useless. Fireman A. F. O'Connor, driver for Deputy Chief Walsh, ran up four flights and found Miss Catherine Daly, telephone operator for H. P. Michaels, unconscious at her switchboard. He picked her up in his arms and carried her safely to the street through the heavy smoke. Dr. Habbia of the Volunteer Hospital treated her and she was sent home.

The origin of the fire was not determined.

Two other girls, Mary Ryan and Marie O'Donnell, stenographer and telephone operator for the State Steamship Company, on the third floor, were overcome. They ran with others out on to the landing and heard that the flames were mounting the stairs. Back into the office they went and drew two towels over their faces.

George Mack and Walter Laurence, two elevator operators, who struck their posts until ordered away by the firemen, made a final trip looking for any one who might have succumbed. At the third floor they saw the two girls, stopped their machines and, picking up the girls, carried them to the roof.

Over the roof they carried, partly dragged, their burdens and helped them upon the skylight of No. 71 and landed safely with them in the street, where they were taken in charge by Dr. Habbia.

The fire was almost in the center of the neighborhood of four banks, the National City Bank, Bank of New York, Central Trust Company and the Seamen's Savings Bank. Wall Street was jammed with men, women and children and business in the financial district was practically suspended.

SENATE PASSES EDGE BILL.

Authorizes Corporations to Extend Credit in Export Trade.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The Senate adopted to-day the conference report on Edge bill authorizing organization of corporations to extend credit in Europe to stimulate export trade.

The measure now goes to the President.

To-day the authorities are investigating the marital life of the Blakes. James M. Blake, the prisoner's husband, has refused to tell much about it, and there is no definite explanation of why they separated four years ago.

Neither her mother nor her sister has been to the hospital to see Mrs. Blake. Her husband said he had not decided whether to employ a lawyer for her.

TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL ADVERTISERS:

Advertisers who have their copy and advertising in the World office by 3 P. M. of the day preceding publication will be given preference by both The Morning and Evening World in the acceptance of advertising during the present paper crisis. Positive reservations by 3 P. M. will go next in order, provided copy and order are received by 5 P. M. All other business will have to run the chance of being omitted.

This applies particularly to local advertising. Advertisers' desires must be known in time to shape to the paper limitations of that day.

MRS. BLAKE ADMITS SON FOUND DEAD WAS NOT STOLEN

"Must Have Fallen Into Sea," Says Woman Accused of Slaying Child.

TEST MADE OF SANITY.

Mother Believed to Have Planned Also to End Her Own Life.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Dec. 16.—Mrs. Esther Blake, accused of sacrificing her little dumb son "Buddy" in an insane belief she could thus win back her husband's love, to-day admitted the boy was not kidnapped—as she first declared—according to Dr. Louis Souder, county physician.

Souder said Mrs. Blake admitted walking out on the Municipal Pier at Ventnor with the boy Friday night and that she declared:

"I guess he must have fallen into the water."

Mrs. Blake, who is charged with "wilful murder" of five-year-old James W. Blake Jr., has been in Atlantic City Hospital since Friday night when, she had asserted, two negroes attacked her and "Buddy" on a street in Ventnor, choking her into unconsciousness and stealing the boy.

According to Souder, Mrs. Blake started to repeat the "kidnapping" story to him.

"I told her she knew that was not true," he said. "She began crying and said, 'No, it isn't. I can't remember just what happened. "Buddy" and I went down on the pier. He was running ahead of me carrying my purse. I guess he must have fallen into the water.'"

Souder expressed the hope of "obtaining a complete confession" from Mrs. Blake before night.

The county authorities to-day expressed the belief that she had planned to throw the boy from a rowboat and then commit suicide.

William Pepper, conductor on a trolley car, said she and the boy, popularly known as "Buddy," had spent a long time riding back and forth on his car, leaving only a short time before she appeared disheveled and declared two negroes in uniform had kidnapped her boy.

She appeared "fidgety," Pepper said, and among other questions asked if it would be possible to obtain a rowboat at Longport when the car arrived there. He told all the rowboats were stored for the winter, and persuaded her not to get off in the rain, as she had no umbrella. The authorities assume she intended to kill herself, as had she gone out in the boat she would not have been able to explain satisfactorily the disappearance of the boy.

Before leaving the car, Mrs. Blake asked him on what street was the entrance to the steel pier at Atlantic City. She gave him fifty-five cents as a Christmas present for being so kind.

Five physicians who examined her declared Mrs. Blake is not a drug addict, and that her case is most remarkable. They say undoubtedly she is subject to temporary fits of insanity.

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WOMAN WHO ASKED FOR FOOD AND HER HOST DIE TOGETHER

Bodies Found in Gas-Filled Room Back of Photographer's Studio.

MET AT L. I. STATION.

Friend Tells of Woman, Still Unidentified, Who Told How Hungry She Was.

William C. Harse, 27, formerly of Belmont, L. I., and an unidentified woman, of about the same age, were found dead to-day in the chamber back of the photograph studio Harse opened two months ago at No. 73 Sterling Place in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn. Neighbors had been complaining of the smell of gas since early last evening. Dr. Frey of the Methodist Episcopal Hospital, said the couple had been dead for hours.

On a dresser was found a letter addressed to Miss Hortense Craig, on the envelope of which was the address, "2011 King Street, Seattle, Wash." One of Harse's acquaintances explained that letter was delivered at No. 73 Sterling Place and that Harse, after trying in vain to locate a Miss Craig, threw it on the dresser.

The dead woman was about 5 feet 6 inches tall, with dark hair and eyes and of dark complexion. Policemen and doctors said she must have been quite good looking. They were sure she was not over twenty-seven.

How Harse met the woman last Sunday evening for the first time was told by an acquaintance of the photographer, who spent a part of Sunday with him. They went off together for a walk and returned to the studio, where Harse prepared their dinner. Then the photographer walked with his friend to the Long Island Depot.

Two girls, one of them the dead woman, were near a telephone booth. The taller girl immediately walked up to Harse. "Take me for something to eat," she asked. "I can't get home and I'm fearfully hungry."

"Well," said Harse, "I can take you around to my studio, and I'm not a bad cook."

"I can get home," the smaller girl said, and said good night. She disappeared and Harse and the other girl left the depot.

Investigation showed that the supply pipe to a gas heater had been broken off, and gas was pouring from the supply pipe. The deaths are believed accidental.

DRY MISSIONARY TOO WET TO FINISH 'CURSE OF DRINK'

Falls Off His Soap Box While Warning Crowd Against Rum and Lands in Court.

MARTIN CONROY, 46, a missionary, was before Magistrate Max S. Levine in the West Side Court this morning on a charge of public intoxication. Conroy said he lived at No. 392 Avenue L in Brooklyn.

He was arrested last night when he fell from a soap box at the corner of 53th Street and Sixth Avenue, where, according to Policeman Edward Pointing, he was admonishing a crowd of 20 or more to "beware of the awful curse of drink."

"I was drinking," he told Magistrate Levine to-day. "But if you will turn me loose I'll never drink again."

When finger print expert Specter reported that Conroy had been previously convicted nine times for the same offense the Magistrate commented: "Well, I suppose a missionary can get drunk as well as any one else. The next time you get drunk, do it in Brooklyn. Discharged."

HARDING TO BE CANDIDATE.

Ohio Senator to Make Announcement in 24 Hours.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Announcement by Senator Harding of Ohio, of his entrance in the contest for the Republican nomination for the Presidency, will be made within twenty-four hours.

A statement to this effect was made here to-day.

Senators Protest Promotions Over Gen. Edwards.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—A delegation of Senators and Representatives from Massachusetts called on Secretary Baker to-day to protest against the promotion of a member of officers of junior rank over Major Gen. Edwards, formerly Commander of the 34th New England National Guard.

WILSON MAY ACT TO END WARTIME PROHIBITION UNDER POWER DEFINED BY COURT

President Directs Close Study of Justice Brandeis' Opinion—May Declare Demobilization Completed.

(Special Despatch to The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.

IT IS reported to-day that President Wilson is having a careful study made of the Supreme Court's decision in the War-Time Prohibition cases.

If he finds that, in the opinion of the Court, the power to annul the act is vested in him, it is thought by many persons in Administration circles that he will proclaim the end of demobilization, and the end of the war for the purposes of this measure.

GRAND JURY BALKS AT PROSKAUER AS SWANN ASSISTANT

Objects to His Legal Status Because of Inquiry Into Prosecutor's Office.

Designation by Gov. Smith of Joseph M. Proskauer, former partner of Judge Abram L. Elkus of the Court of Appeals, to be an Assistant District Attorney advising the Extraordinary Grand Jury which has taken issue with District Attorney Swann in investigating what it calls "the over-shadowing crime" is not satisfactory to the members of the jury. They said so with emphasis to-day when they gathered at the Criminal Courts Building.

The objection of Foreman Altmair and his associates, they made clear, was not to Mr. Proskauer himself, but to the fact that he was to be legally and technically an assistant to District Attorney Swann. The Grand Jury has frequently asked that a representative of the Attorney General of the State, independent of the District Attorney of the county, be designated as counsel.

"You may say for us with full authority," a group of Grand Jurors said to an Evening World reporter to-day, "that we have all respect for the ability, probity and fitness of Mr. Proskauer as a lawyer and a man. But we do not feel that Gov. Smith fully understands our situation. We are not seeking to discredit Gov. Smith; we know of no just reason why he should be discredited. We are not attacking Tammany Hall. TELL OF CONSPIRACY FOR SELFISH ADVANCEMENT."

"We have evidence which leads us to believe that several months ago three men entered into a conspiracy for selfish advancement. Part of this conspiracy was a plan to bring the traction interests of the city under municipal ownership with the object of forming a new political party among the employees of the municipally owned railroads."

"We desire counsel who is free from any semblance of subordination to any man connected with this 'over-shadowing crime' if there is such a crime. More than that, we have before us an accusation of crime against one of the District Attorney's assistants. Against this man because we have no legal adviser disconnected with the District Attorney's office

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PLAN OF CONGRESS TO DECLARE PEACE HALTED BY COURT

Ruling on War Time Dry Law Says President Alone Has That Power.

By David Laurence.

(Special Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (copy-right, 1919).—The war is still on. There can be no peace until the President of the United States proclaims peace and this he need not do until a treaty of peace is ratified by the United States Government and accepted by foreign Governments. The President is the sole judge of the proper moment for the issuance of his proclamation of peace.

These are the big points which, entirely apart from a nationwide interest in the liquor question, were deduced from the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States. So absorbed were most observers in endeavoring to discover whether or not the country would be on a wet or dry basis that the plain speaking of the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court on matters affecting the status of the Peace Treaty itself did not have its full effect until to-day, when the words of the court were carefully digested by official Washington.

COURT PROBABLY SOUGHT TO REMOVE CONFUSING DOUBTS.

It is not possible, of course, to inquire into the purposes which the Supreme Court had in mind, but there were many observers who thought they saw an intent on the part of the Court at this critical moment in the nation's history to set at rest the confusion which has existed as to whether or not the war ended with the armistice or with subsequent acts of the executive himself. The portion of the decision which attracted most attention were these sentences:

"In the absence of specific provision to the contrary, the period of war has been held to extend to the ratification of the Treaty of Peace."

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HE STOLE TWO PENNIES FROM A BLIND NEWSMAN

To Show He Was No Piker Ryan Also Took a Newspaper—Geis Off With \$10 Fine.

Charged with stealing two pennies and a newspaper from a blind newsdealer at 34th Street and Ninth Avenue John Ryan, forty years old, of No. 481 Ninth Avenue, was fined \$10 by Magistrate Brothman in Jefferson Market Court to-day.

Thomas Geis, 51 years old, of No. 108 West 24th Street, was the blind man.

Last Drafted Soldier Out of Siberia.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The last of drafted soldiers are now out of Siberia, the War Department announced to-day.

WILSON WANTS TO TAKE AUTO RIDES, BUT CAN'T YET

President Spends More Than an Hour in Extreme Cold on White House Porch.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—President Wilson spent more than an hour on the porch of the White House to-day despite the extremely cold weather.

Rear Admiral Grayson, the President's physician, said Mr. Wilson desired to take automobile rides but that he had not approved for fear the President might take cold.

SHIPS DRIVEN ON SAND BAR.

Cutter Goes to Rescue of Barges and Tug Bound for New York.

The Coast Guard cutter Itasca was ordered today to hurry to the assistance of the Philadelphia tug May and the barges Marina and Edger A. Smith, bound to New York from Philadelphia, which had been driven by gales onto a sandbar about two miles north of Beach Haven, N. J., and fifteen miles south of Barnegat.

The tug's crew of ten and the

WORLD RESTAURANT.

Special 25-cent dinner, Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1919. Reservations, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 450, 500, 550, 600, 650, 700, 750, 800, 850, 900, 950, 1000.

SUPREME COURT ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO TEST DRY AMENDMENT'S VALIDITY

Retail Liquor Dealers of New Jersey Act to Institute Proceedings—Congress Shelves Bill to Repeal Wartime Act.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Permission to institute original proceedings to have the National Prohibition Amendment declared unconstitutional and New Jersey and Federal authorities enjoined from enforcing it was asked of the Supreme Court to-day by the Retail Liquor Dealers' Association of New Jersey.

WHO IS PROF. PORTA?

MAN WHO PREDICTED WORLD'S END UNKNOWN

Not an Instructor at Ann Arbor, Whence the Report Originated.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Dec. 16.—WHO is Prof. Porta, who predicted the "end of the world" for to-morrow? Hundreds of copies over the world asked each other this to-day.

"He is not a professor at Ann Arbor, as stories making the prediction said," the Department of Astronomy at the University of Michigan, officially declared to-day.

"I never heard of him in a professional way—if he is a student of astronomy to any great extent I would know him," one professor said.

"There is absolutely no basis for his prediction."

NEW DOUBT AS TO TIME OF RAILWAYS' RETURN

Hines' Recommendations on the Subject Are Being Considered by President.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—New recommendations from Director General Hines, as to the return of the railroads to private control are before President Wilson. Neither Mr. Hines nor White House officials will say whether they advocate a departure from the President's announced purpose to return the roads by Jan. 1.

Preparations are going forward at the Railroad Administration for turning the railways back in accordance with the decision announced by President Wilson in his message to Congress last May. Materials ordered on contract are being obtained as far as possible before the first of the new year.

Opening the debate to-day on the Cummins Railroad Bill, Senator Pollock, Republican, Washington, sharply attacked the provision which would authorize the Interstate Commerce Commission to special cases to permit a lower charge for a long haul than for a short haul.

Owners of the liquor to-day booed Government officials with telegrams demanding what they should do to avert heavy losses. Telegrams elocked the Washington wires. Government officials were unable to give adequate answers.

The estimated original investment was placed to-day at approximately \$33,000,000 for 67,000,000 gallons of liquor with which the owners now seem to have been caught. This is in addition to the carrying charge. The bonded supply includes 63,942,331 gallons of whiskey, more than 1,300,000 gallons of brandy, approximately 1,500,000 gallons of gin and slightly less than 500,000 gallons of rum. These are Government figures.

One estimate is that under the new beverage laws now being considered

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ANY BELL-LANE AFTER MEALS AND SEE AND THE GOOD DIGESTION MAKES YOU FEEL—Ade.